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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decision adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, as listed in sections II to IV below, that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2018.

II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session, and at subsequent sessions, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution by which it renewed the mandate of the Special Committee.

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to seventy-second sessions, the most recent of which is document A/72/23.

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5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contained the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990–2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and A/46/634/Corr.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

8. In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

9. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, in which it declared the period 2001–2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and A/46/634/Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade (A/56/61).

10. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/119 of 10 December 2010, in which it declared the period 2011–2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade (A/56/61, annex) and to cooperate with the Special Committee in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade.

11. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee (A/72/23), adopted resolution 72/111 of

7 December 2017, in which it approved the report covering the Special Committee's work in 2017, including the programme of work envisaged for 2018, and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration, and in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to examine the political, economic and social situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and to recommend to the General Assembly, as appropriate, the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence, in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(d) To develop and finalize, as soon as possible and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To continue to dispatch visiting and special missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To take all steps necessary to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(h) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

12. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, where applicable, were an effective means of ascertaining the situation of the peoples of the Territories, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions on specific Territories, and therefore requested the Special Committee to undertake at least one visiting mission a year.

13. As at 1 January 2018, the Special Committee will be composed of the following 29 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

III. Resolutions and decision concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2017

14. In addition to resolution 72/111, the General Assembly adopted 20 other resolutions and one decision relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 2017, which are listed below. Members may wish to take them into account in finalizing the Special Committee's programme of work for 2018.

A. Resolutions and decision concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	58/316*	1 July 2004
Western Sahara	72/95	7 December 2017
American Samoa	72/96	7 December 2017
Anguilla	72/97	7 December 2017
Bermuda	72/98	7 December 2017
British Virgin Islands	72/99	7 December 2017
Cayman Islands	72/100	7 December 2017
French Polynesia	72/101	7 December 2017
Guam	72/102	7 December 2017
Montserrat	72/103	7 December 2017
New Caledonia	72/104	7 December 2017
Pitcairn	72/105	7 December 2017
Saint Helena	72/106	7 December 2017
Tokelau	72/107	7 December 2017
Turks and Caicos Islands	72/108	7 December 2017
United States Virgin Islands	72/109	7 December 2017

* In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of the annex to the resolution, the item shall remain on the agenda for consideration upon notification by a Member State.

2. Decision

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Gibraltar	72/520	7 December 2017

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	72/91	7 December 2017
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	72/92	7 December 2017
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	72/93	7 December 2017
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	72/94	7 December 2017
Dissemination of information on decolonization	72/110	7 December 2017

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

15. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Questions relating to information	72/90 A and B	7 December 2017
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	72/159	19 December 2017
The right to development	72/167	19 December 2017
Oceans and the law of the sea	72/73	5 December 2017
Pattern of conferences	72/19	1 December 2017